



CALPEEK

CALIFORNIA POLITICAL WEEK

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FULL METAL JACKET: WILL MORE GUN CONTROL BE AN ISSUE IN 2000 OR DOES NRA HAVE IT RIGHT??

Editor's note: The *Million Mom March* on Washington DC May 14th and around the U.S. (including marches in L.A., S.F., and Oakland) was part of a ongoing effort by the newly formed *Campaign for Licensing & Registration*, a coalition of five gun control groups, to give the pro gun control movement some political traction. Until this big DC event, there wasn't much. Here's our report & analysis...

... The Clinton Admin., as well as pro gun-control Congressional Demos, certainly thought that after the shootings at Columbine High in Colorado and at the Jewish Community Center in Granada Hills that *gun control* would be an issue they could *hammer* the GOP with in 2000. But efforts to enact more federal gun control laws have stalled in the U.S. Congress. And just days before the march on DC, a *USA Today/CNN/Gallup* poll was released showing that 49% of adults questioned wanted the *existing laws* enforced more strictly vs. 46% who wanted to *pass new* gun laws. So the U.S. is about evenly divided and our sources say that for once the powerful *National Rifle Assn.* (NRA) may finally have it right: *enforce existing laws*...

... The problem gun control advocates face is that there are *very few national laws*. The best known are the '94 *Brady Law* and a rather weak *assault weapons ban*. And getting more national laws restricting guns isn't easy, given the NRA's political clout. Thus the battle has to be fought state by state...

... What most gun control groups want is handgun *registration* and *licensing of handgun owners*. Note: rifles and shotguns are *not* included. The *Campaign for Licensing & Registration* wants a national licensing law, which would require a gun buyer to complete a firearms safety course, have a background check and provide a thumbprint. FYI: in order to *carry a concealed weapon* in Texas, individuals must be *licensed* and all of the above is required...

... According to a new national survey conducted by *The Center on Crime Communities & Culture* (a project of the

NY-based *Open Society Institute*), Calif. ranks 3rd among all 50 states when it comes to gun control laws. And while some may not know it, Calif. is a handgun registration state and has de facto licensing due to the passage in 1991 of *AB 618*. *AB 618* requires 1st time gun buys to complete a course in firearms safety. When combined with the waiting period and background check, most all the elements are present for licensing. The problem is that 35 states *don't* have either registration or licensing of handguns. And only Massachusetts has both...

... FYI: The problem for Demo VP *Al Gore* are male, blue collar Demos in the *Midwest* who perceive Gore to have "gun grabbing" tendencies. One Demo who does get the message is *Hillary Clinton*. Surprised? In her battle with NY Mayor *Rudy Giuliani*(R) for the U.S. Senate, Mrs. Clinton is *opposed* to Giuliani's stand to *extend* NY's Sullivan Law (requires a license for handguns) to rifles and shotguns. She's hitting him Upstate and on Long Island for this stand - and connecting. And Hillary also opposes as unrealistic and intrusive any efforts to force handgun owners to go through "hoops" in order to keep what they already own. That's why she's doing better with blue collar male Demos than Gore. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN 2000: DRUG REHABILITATION INITIATIVE LIKELY TO QUALIFY FOR CALIF.'S NOV. 7TH BALLOT.

Editor's note: There's no doubt that the *Substance Abuse & Crime Prevention Act* of 2000 will be just as controversial as the *medical marijuana* initiative was in November of 1996 when *Prop. 215* won by a 55.58% vs. 44.42% margin. Here is our first full update on this initiative...

... Petitions containing more than enough signatures were turned in some time ago and backers of this initiative are confident that it will qualify. Santa Monica-based *Progressive Campaigns* handled the petition drive...

... There are similarities to Prop. 215, in that the campaign team and the financial backers are the same. The major supporters are NY financier *George Soros*, educator *John*

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Sperling (Phoenix University) and Progressive Insurance CEO Peter Lewis. The sponsor/author is S.F. attorney Cliff Gardner. The campaign team for the *Calif. Campaign for New Drug Policies* includes lead consultant Zimmerman & Markman; Fairbank, Maslin, Maulin on polling; Jim Gonzales & Robert Harris handling coalition building; and Dave Fratello as spokesperson. The cmp. HQ ☎ (310)394-2952. Soros, Sperling and Lewis have *deep pockets*, so this campaign will be well funded. In addition, it is expected that some of the drug treatment providers will ante up big bucks too. The website is: www.drugreform.org...

... Under this initiative, 1st time offenders of simple drug possession would have a chance to request drug treatment as opposed to prison or jail time. The treatment programs could last for up to 18 months. It's estimated that the cost would be about \$120 million (drug treatment program costs, plus administrative costs), but this would be offset by savings of \$100-150 million a year, plus savings to the counties of \$50 million a year. The savings comes from reducing the State prison and county jail population. Supporters of this initiative say that of the state's 160,000 current prisoners, about 19,700 are locked up for drug possession. How many of these nearly 20,000 would have been eligible isn't clear, because some may be 2nd strike offenders – and they are not eligible for this program. FYI: funds have been appropriated to build two new prisons by 2003. One of the prisons is already paid for, but if this measure is approved in November, it's possible the state might not have to build a second one – saving the state \$457 million...

... The campaign in favor of this initiative is just getting underway, but State Senate Pres. John Burton(D) and Senators Don Perata(D) and Richard Polanco(D) are in support, as is Assemblyman Rod Wright(D). Also endorsing this plan is S.F. Mayor Willie Brown and S.F. Co. Sheriff Mike Hennessey. There's a group called Minorities In Law Enforcement(MILE) which also is in support...

... There will be an opposition campaign, but it hasn't begun to organize as yet. Still, Calpeek sources who oppose this initiative say it is badly flawed and should be defeated. The key opponent will be the CA Narcotics Officers Assn., but other law enforcement groups may join up – and very soon. And of course the Calif. Correctional Peace Officers Assn. (CCPOA), with their huge campaign warchest, could wade in too, but they have to be somewhat careful, because of an obvious conflict...

... The big question is whether this approach to the drug crisis will work? Supporters believe that over a period of time (1 to 5 years), the success rate from drug rehab treatment will be about 50%. Treatment could end up as one of

the key debate issues. Opponents say any successful treatment program must have testing --- and the opponents say this plan doesn't require drug testing. Supporters say the initiative permits testing, but doesn't require it. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN 2000: SEVERAL LOCAL INITIATIVES TRY TO MAKE THE NOV. 7TH BALLOT IN SAN FRANCISCO.

Editor's note: Lots of activity in San Francisco, as voters prepare to see a very long ballot on Nov. 7th. Why the long ballot? Because for the first time since the mid-1970s, voters will elect county supervisors by *districts*. Here's our update, including a report about several controversial ballot measures...

... All 11 county supervisor seats will be on the line Nov. 7th. County Supes Barbara Kaufman and Sue Bierman are *termed out*, but sources think the remaining 9 incumbents could face a huge number of challengers - perhaps as many as 10-15 in each district. We'll do an update on the supervisors' race later on...

◆ ***Public Funding of Elections*** – It appears that S.F. Co. voters will have an opportunity to decide whether or not taxpayers should partially fund Board of Supervisor elections. The city's Ethics Commission is likely to place its measure on the ballot, while CA Common Cause may also attempt to qualify an initiative to publicly fund not only Supes races, but the contest for mayor as well. The Common Cause measure differs from the Ethics Comm.'s plan in that it would give extra money to candidates if they were subjected to a negative blitz funded by an independent expenditure campaign. Common Cause needs to collect 10,000 valid signatures by July 10th. The Ethics Commission does not need to get the Board of Supes approval to place its measure on the ballot. The only solid backing on the Board for these reforms comes from Sup. Tom Ammiano. The Ethics Commission estimates its plan for partial funding would run between \$435,000 to \$2.7 million, but supervisors who are opposed think the commission is *low balling* it...

◆ ***S.F.'s MUD*** – MUD in this case stands for municipal utility district. Here the *Bay Guardian* weekly newspaper and former County Sup. Angela Alioto are trying to qualify an initiative to establish a S.F.M.U.D. (similar to East Bay MUD). The MUD would elect an independent board of 5 members, which would take over PG&E, cable, water and garbage collection. If this measure qualifies, it will be up against a *mega buck* campaign, which has already hired Solem & Associates and the new firm of Barnes, Mosher, Whitehurst & Partners to run the NO campaign...

◆ ***Bond Measures*** – There are 3 proposed bonds, but it's

not 100% certain that they'll be on the ballot. They are under consideration and trying to make the ballot. They include: \$132 million in improvement bonds for S.F. City College; \$100 million for upgrading S.F. General Hospital and area health clinics; and \$119 million for upgrading neighborhood libraries. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN 2000: MAJOR POLICE GROUPS BACKING AWAY FROM INCUMBENT L.A. CO. DA GARCETTI...

Editor's note: Here's a brief update about the "endorsement game" in the battle between incumbent L.A. Co. DA Gil Garcetti and challenger, Chief Deputy DA Steve Cooley. At this point, Garcetti really has his back to the wall. Here's our brief update & analysis...

... When you're running for DA, regardless of which county, it's very helpful to have support from your local law & order groups – the POAs and DSAs, as well as endorsements from statewide law enforcement groups. In the *primary* battle between Garcetti and Cooley, Garcetti won backing from L.A. Co. Sheriff Lee Baca, the L.A. Co. Police Chiefs Assn., the statewide group called COPS and the L.A. Police Protective League. Baca and the police chiefs remain with Garcetti for the time being, but COPS and the LAPPL have *backed away* from the DA and are in the process of reconsidering their endorsement. And ALADS, the big association representing L.A. Co. Deputy Sheriffs, as well as DA investigators, voted 777 to 156 for Cooley. Doesn't seem much doubt which way the ALADS Board of Directors will vote...

... All of this is not good news for Garcetti. As for Cooley, his only law & order endorsement during the primary was from the CA Narcotics Officers Assn. Throw in ALADS and perhaps COPS and LAPPL – and Cooley ends up with an impressive list of law & order endorsements...

... Another big coup for Cooley was the endorsement on May 12 by L.A. attorney Gloria Allred. She's been on Garcetti's case for years over the office's lousy record in collecting *child support payments*. Allred's endorsement is important because she's known as a *liberal Democrat*, thus she provides some *important cover* should Garcetti try to make the case that Cooley is a Goper with a conservative political agenda...

... FYI: Garcetti still maintains a healthy lead in fundraising, but Cooley is playing catch up. Deputy DA John Lynch, who ran against Garcetti in '96, held a fundraiser which grossed \$35,000. On June 13th Cooley will hold a major \$500 per/person fundraiser at the Intercontinental Hotel in downtown L.A. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN 2000: UPDATE ON U.S. HOUSE CONTESTS.

Editor's note: Here's another update on Calpeek's *Watch List* of U.S. House races in Calif. These are contests where the incumbents are favored to win, but could still provide some excitement. This week we'll briefly look at the 10th CD (Tauscher) and the 22nd CD (Capps)...

☒ **10th CD** – This CD represented by U.S. Rep. Ellen Tauscher(D-Pleasanton) takes in both Alameda and Contra Costa Counties, but Contra Costa provides the biggest number of voters. As Tauscher seeks her 3rd term, this CD has registration almost equally divided: 41.19%(D) vs. 41.36%(R). And indeed the 10th CD is considered a *swing* district. This is Tauscher's first campaign since her well publicized divorce from deep pocketed hubby Bill Tauscher. This also is Tauscher's first campaign using Terris Jaye & Barnes for mail. The other consultants are Tauscher vets. They include Fairbank, Maslin, Maullin on polling and Joe Slade White & Co. on tv. Lisa Tucker is Tauscher's daily mgr. Tauscher is a moderate Demo and votes her district, thus it will be hard to paint her as a lib. For example, she's voting for the trade pact with China – a vote which won't please organized labor or the Demo House leadership. Since Tauscher got 54.4% in the open primary and she's got cash on hand of \$331,679 (plus personal \$ if she needs it), most sources say Tauscher looks safe for now...

... Tauscher's GOP opponent is LaFayette businessman Claude Hutchinson Jr., a 61-year-old GOP activists who also happens to chair the Contra Costa Republican Central Cmt. Hutchinson was the winner of a hard fought primary with two conservative challengers: Gordon Blake and Dennis Kilian. Had there been just one conservative challenger, Hutchinson might not have won. And that's part of the problem facing GOPers in Contra Costa County. There's still lots of moderate vs. conservative rivalry. Hutchinson's primary election consultant, McNally Temple & Assoc., has been replaced by Steve Grand of Wilson-Grand Communications in the DC area. Chris Battle is Hutchinson's daily mgr. Hutchinson's c-o-h after the primary was \$48,588...

☒ **22nd CD** – This is the Santa Barbara/San Luis Obispo County district represented by U.S. Rep. Lois Capps(D), who is seeking her 2nd *full term* (she won a special election early '97 when her husband, Congressman Walter Capps, died suddenly). Capps got 55.3% in the open primary and thus remains a favorite to hold this CD against moderate Goper Mike Stoker, who is a former Santa Barbara Co. Supe from the Santa Maria area. Capps is sitting atop a war chest of \$634,124 vs. just \$76,984 for Stoker, who also has *debts* of nearly \$70,000. The problem for Stoker is that

Capps remains very strong with the Santa Barbara business community (read that as GOPers) and with independent voters. And in the primary, Capps beat Stoker in SLO, which is more GOP than Demo. On the China trade deal, like Tauscher and U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein(D), Capps is voting for the deal. Stoker is opposed. FYI: Stoker has been endorsed by the local McCain 2000 grassroots organization. Can't hurt, but it will take a huge effort by Stoker to defeat Capps. Lead consultant for Capps is Bill Carrick, while Stoker's lead consultant is Gilliard Blanning & Assoc. Stay tuned...

CALPEEK'S INFOBAHN: POLITICAL SHORT TAKES.

Editor's note: Here are a few items, political & otherwise, worth noting...

■ *Does David Broder Have it Right??* – In his new book *Democracy Derailed – Initiative Campaigns and the Power of Money*, Washington Post political columnist David Broder takes off the gloves and really lets this form of direct democracy have it on the chin. Although many states have the initiative, there is no national initiative process, but Broder wonders whether it's just a matter of time before we go that route. This book will be on Calpeek's summertime reading list...

■ *Calpeek's Legal File* – Former Demo Assembly leader Richard Katz won't see his liable/slander case against campaign consultant Richie Ross before the CA Supreme Court. The court refused to hear Katz's appeal, thus Ross wins once again...

■ *Another Campbell Screw Up??* – Insiders are again shaking their collective heads, wondering what in the world is U.S. Rep. Tom Campbell(R) thinking by hiring 23-year-old Andrea Jones to be his daily cmp. manager for his U.S. Senate race. Jones is the daughter of CA Sec. of State Bill Jones. Prior to joining Campbell's campaign, Jones was the national youth coordinator for John McCain's now-defunct presidential campaign. Jones vs. savvy vet Kam Kuwata for U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein(D)???

■ *Battle Royal for L.A.'s 13th Council Seat* – This seat is now held by Councilwoman Jackie Goldberg, who is off to Sacto in January 2001 as an legislator representing the 45th Assembly District. So her council seat is open and already the lineup is crowded with some well known names, including former councilman Mike Woo, Assemblyman Scott Wildman, Charter Reform Comm. Bennett Keysor, Eric Garcetti (the DA's son) and even Jackie's brother, Art. This isn't the entire list, but it gives you an idea of what to look for in April of 2001...

CALPEEK'S NEW JOBS AND PERSONNEL NOTICES.

Editor's note: Here are some items to mark down in your notebook...

● Kate Bartolo has been hired as a Sr. VP in the public affairs unit of the L.A. office of Manning Selvage & Lee. Bartolo used to be with The Walt Disney Co...

● The Fresno BEE's political editor, Phoebe Wall Howard, has joined Stoorza, Ziegaus & Metzger as media relations director for the firm's Sacto and Central Valley operations...

● Gov. Davis has appointed Paul E. Jacks as the deputy director of the Off. of Emergency Services' Disaster Assistance Division...

● GOP Senate Leader Jim Brulte has named David W. Quintana as his new legislative director...

● L.A.-based Cerrell Associates has been hired to coordinate a reception for the Congressional Hispanic Caucus during the DNC presidential convention in L.A...

CALPEEK'S MARKETPLACE NETWORK

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